

DNA PREPARING FTA CARDS FOR EXTRACTION

A. SCOPE

This protocol will outline the steps that must be taken when extracting biological samples collected on FTA paper.

B. QUALITY CONTROL

- B.1 Protective gloves, scrubs, a lab coat, and a mask must be worn at all times when performing this procedure.

C. SAFETY

- C.1 Protective gloves, scrubs, a lab coat, and a mask must be worn at all times when performing this procedure.

D. REAGENTS, STANDARDS AND CONTROLS

- D.1 Whatman EasiCollect device with Indicating FTA card (Standard card found in all Nevada DNA Databank Collection Kits)

- D.2 Filter paper

E. EQUIPMENT

- E.1 Hand held 3mm hole puncher
E.2 Scalpel
E.3 Scissors
E.4 Microcentrifuge tube

F. PROCEDURES

NOTE: The "Indicating" in the name of the Indicating FTA card comes from the unused card being colored pink until saliva is deposited on an area, which turns that area of the card white. This should be considered when choosing an optimal location to punch.

- F.1 Make three "cleaning punches" from a clean piece of filter paper.
- F.2 Pick up the Indicating FTA card and punch 1 or 2 punches into a microcentrifuge tube being careful to punch directly into the tube. Punches may alternatively be punched into a weigh boat or other DNA free surface and placed into the microcentrifuge tube with a pair of forceps.
- F.3 Make three "cleaning punches" from a clean piece of filter paper.

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F.4 The FTA punches may be taken on to extraction (DOC ID [1763](#) or DOC ID [1782](#)).

F.5 Cleaning punches should be discarded.

F.6 Alternatively, scissors instead of a hole puncher, may be used to take a cutting of the FTA card. Furthermore, any portion of the Whatman EasiCollect device that a DNA analyst deems suitable (e.g. a cutting from the sponge applicator) may be used for DNA analysis.

NOTE: The hole puncher does not require bleaching. The cleaning punches will prevent contamination. Bleaching will rapidly destroy the hole puncher.

G. INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES

G.1 Not applicable

H. REFERENCES

H.1 Washoe County Sheriff's Office FTA Validation Folder

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